

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended): A ~~mercury vapor discharge~~ fluorescent lamp comprising a silver salt, a gold salt or combinations thereof present in a concentration in a range of between about 0.1 milligram and about 30 milligrams per lamp.
2. (Currently amended): The ~~mercury vapor discharge~~ fluorescent lamp of claim 1, wherein said silver salt comprises silver carbonate, silver halide, silver oxide, silver sulfide, silver acetate, or combinations thereof.
3. (Currently amended): The ~~mercury vapor discharge~~ fluorescent lamp of claim 2, wherein said silver salt is silver carbonate.
4. (Currently amended): The ~~mercury vapor discharge~~ fluorescent lamp of claim 1, wherein said gold salt comprises gold carbonate, gold halide, gold oxide, gold sulfide, gold acetate, or combinations thereof.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently amended): The ~~mercury vapor discharge~~ fluorescent lamp of claim 5 1, wherein said silver salt, gold salt, or combination thereof is present in a range of between about 10 milligrams and about 30 milligrams per lamp.

7. (Currently amended): The ~~mercury vapor discharge~~ fluorescent lamp of claim 1, wherein said silver salt, gold salt, or combination thereof substantially prevents the interaction of elemental mercury with ferric and cupric compounds which oxidize elemental mercury to a soluble form.

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8. (Original): A mercury vapor discharge lamp comprising an amount of silver carbonate in a range between about 10 milligrams and about 30 milligrams per lamp to substantially prevent interaction of elemental mercury with ferric and cupric compounds which oxidize elemental mercury to a soluble form.

Claim 9. (Currently amended): A method for preventing the formation of leachable mercury compounds in ~~mercury vapor discharge~~ fluorescent lamps comprising providing, in a ~~mercury vapor discharge~~ fluorescent lamp structure, between about 0.1 milligram and about 30 milligrams of a silver salt, a gold salt or combination thereof.

10. (Original): The method of claim 9, wherein said silver salt comprises silver carbonate, silver chloride, silver oxide, silver sulfide, silver acetate, or combinations thereof.

11. (Original): The method of claim 10, wherein said silver salt comprises silver carbonate.

12. (Original): The method of claim 9, wherein said gold salt comprises gold carbonate, gold halide, gold oxide, gold sulfide, gold acetate, or combinations thereof.

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Currently amended): The method of claim ~~13~~ 9, wherein said silver salt, gold salt, or combination thereof is present in a range of about 10 milligrams and about 30 milligrams per lamp.

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15. (Original): The method of claim 9, wherein said silver salt, gold salt, or combination thereof substantially prevents the interaction of elemental mercury with ferric and cupric compounds which oxidize elemental mercury to a soluble form.

16. (Original): A method for preventing the formation of leachable mercury compounds and mercury vapor discharge lamps comprising providing an amount of silver carbonate in a range between about 10 milligrams and about 30 milligrams per lamp to substantially prevent the formation of ferric and cupric compounds which oxidize elemental mercury to a soluble form.
